Suicide by farmers

12. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exact reasons have been identified for the spate of suicide by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the view of experts/NGOs in identifying the exact cause of suicide by farmers have been taken note of;

(d) if so, whether any new study would be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of spate of suicide by farmers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The suicides by farmers have been reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat only in 2008-09. The State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurities as causes for suicides by farmers, as also identified in various study reports in this context *e.g.* Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, National Institutes for Rural Development (NIRD), National Institute of Agricultural Extension & Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad and Veeresh Committee etc. Further, the Veeresh Committee in context of farmers' suicides in Karnataka has stated that connecting the incidents of suicides directly to any single cause would be erroneous, since it is a personal decision of the victim and the post suicide search for causes gives only circumstantial evidence.

Record production of wheat and rice

13. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record wheat and paddy production in Punjab and other wheat growing States and rice procurement has crossed 143 lakh tonne which is up by 21 per cent;

(b) if so, whether wheat sowing has been completed at 27 million hectare;

(c) if so, whether wheat procurement has reached an all time record of over 25 million tonne;

(d) if so, whether in view of this increased production of wheat and rice, Government is considering to ease the curbs on export of wheat and rice; and

(e) if so, the latest position and whether country has become self-sufficient in wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per 4th advance estimates for 2007-08 released on 9th July, 2008, production of wheat and rice at All India level are estimated to be at record levels of 78.40 million tonnes and 96.43 million